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presence in the spleen is evidently independent of that which might exist in the blood retained by this organ after death. Is it that the spleen secretes cholesterine? This can only be determined by actual experiment; but it is very remarkable that a part of the blood which is supplied to the liver should come directly from an organ containing large quantities of a substance known to enter into the composition of the bile.

- II. "Description of a Chronometer Compass." By RALPH REEDER, Esq., of Cincinnati, U. S. Communicated by Capt. WASHINGTON, R.N., F.R.S. Received Feb. 26, 1857.

This instrument is a combination of the Universal Dial and Chronometer, and is intended to show the errors of the magnetic needle, both at sea and on land, and, in clear weather, to perform in place of the needle.

- III. Extract of a Letter addressed to General SABINE, R.A. Treas. and V.P.R.S., by M. R. WOLF, dated Zurich, March 7, 1857. Communicated by Gen. SABINE.

J'avais l'honneur de vous envoyer le 2^{me} numéro de mes 'Mittheilungen über die Sonnenflecken,' dans lequel j'ai développé que mes observations des tâches du soleil dans les années 1849 à 1855 prouvent assez clairement, qu'il y a dans ces phénomènes curieux une période correspondante avec l'année terrestre, dont les deux minima correspondent aux deux époques où la terre passe par le plan contenant l'axe du soleil et une parallèle à l'axe de la terre,—les deux maxima aux deux époques où la terre s'éloigne le plus de ce plan. Depuis ce temps-là j'ai trouvé qu'il y a une période correspondante dans les variations du magnétisme terrestre. En combinant les variations en déclinaison observées sur l'hémisphère boréale avec celles de l'hémisphère australe, pour éliminer l'influence de la déclinaison du soleil, j'ai trouvé une période annuelle pour ces variations, dans laquelle les deux minima et le deux maxima se présentent encore plus claires que dans les tâches solaires, et de même encore plus rapprochés des